



DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Melvin N. Kaku, Director

Peter J.S. Hirai, Deputy Director

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Department of Emergency Management (DEM) is established by Section 128-13, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and Section 6-103, Revised Charter of the City and County of Honolulu. The department's mission is to plan and prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters to protect the public's health, safety and welfare. DEM responds to natural disasters (e.g. hurricanes, earthquakes, tsunamis, flooding, high surf, wild fires and high winds) and man-caused disasters (e.g. aircraft crashes, radiological and hazardous material releases, and marine and inland oil spills).

DEM oversees the City's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) where disaster response and recovery are coordinated. The EOC brings together state and federal government agencies and the private sector.

DEPARTMENT GOALS

1. Public awareness, preparedness, and educational programs that are critical for community level resiliency

2. Synchronization of public and private sectors to ensure seamless response and recovery
3. Sustaining City Emergency Operations Center (EOC) capability by facilitating event tracking, planning and management
4. All-hazard strategic planning: DEM addresses everything from a risk-based all-hazard approach, considering both natural and man-caused hazards

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS

DEM responded to, monitored, and supported many emergency and planned events during FY 2013. DEM was activated 43 days during FY 2013.

EOC activation occurred for the following major events in FY 2013:

- Tropical Cyclone Season: There were 9 named storms in the Eastern North Pacific from June through November, 2012; only one (Daniel) crossed into the Central North Pacific, or Hawaiian Waters.



City Emergency Operations Center activated for the 2013 annual Makani Pahili Hurricane Exercise.

- Between May and June 2013 a series of heavy storms caused multiple activations of the City's EOC. Response events included road closures, reservoir monitoring, and flooding on roadways.
- Queen Charlotte Island Tsunami: On the evening of October 27, 2012, the City EOC was activated in response to an earthquake and subsequent tsunami. Waves reached the Oahu coastline but caused no damage.

PUBLIC AWARENESS, PREPAREDNESS, EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Public education programs supported more than 92 outreach events. Notable achievements in FY 2013 included:

- Participating in "Safe Communities Day" with 35 public safety partners at Leeward Community College
- Coordinating the 2nd Annual "Get Ready" Ewa Beach Emergency Preparedness Fair
- Supporting community-based emergency preparedness groups to be recognized as National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration "StormReady" and "TsunamiReady" communities
- Fostering interoperability between the City, telecommunications companies, utilities, and the American Red Cross by sharing the City's 800 MHz radio system
- Working with faith-based organizations to better prepare their communities and congregations
- Introducing a new mobile application, "Tips for First Responders," designed to help emergency responders communicate and assist individuals with access and functional needs

VOLUNTEERS

The following volunteer programs provide auxiliary capability to DEM:

- Emergency Management Reserve Corps (EMRC)
- Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES)

Over 200 trained, experienced, and dedicated volunteers provide support to the City during emergencies, disasters and other events. During FY 2013, volunteers participated in more than 17 community events and responded to more than 12 disasters, complementing City First Responders.

DEM coordinates the City's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program. CERT promotes and teaches disaster preparedness and the development of neighborhood teams. Teams are trained to activate and assist their neighborhoods following a catastrophic disaster, until responders arrive. During FY 2013, DEM delivered 14 courses yielding approximately 210 graduates and four community or business-based teams.



DEM instructors (orange vests) brief Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) students (green vests).

OUTDOOR WARNING SIREN SYSTEM

The outdoor warning siren system provides early warning for disasters and emergencies. In FY 2013 it was upgraded to a new satellite system.

New sirens were installed at:

- Heeia Kea
- Kahului Regional Park
- Aiea Elementary School
- Kalihi Elementary School
- Ewa Villages Golf Course
- Sacred Falls State Park

Several other siren upgrades and new installations are in progress around the City.

New siren features include:

- Solar charged batteries
- Poles made of composite resin that resists termites and wood deterioration
- Elimination of moving parts apt to malfunction or break

TRAINING

In FY 2013, DEM instituted a monthly seminar for City departmental emergency coordinators (DEC). The seminars provide opportunities for the DECs to learn roles and responsibilities of other departments so that they may better collaborate during emergencies. Other training included:

- National Incident Management System (NIMS)
- Communications Unit Leader (COML) course
- Incident Command System (ICS) for responders
- Senior Leader Workshop for the City's executive branch

DEM conducted several major emergency management exercises in FY 2013 that provided realistic training environments.

PLANNING

DEM leveraged a U.S. Department of Homeland Security funded Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Grant (RCPG) to improve security and resilience through the "Fix, Build, and Resource" process:

- Fix shortcomings in existing plans
- Build regional planning processes and planning communities
- Resource plans with identified needs
- Emergency / disaster preparedness products produced under the RCPG include:
 - City Continuity of Operations (COOP) Plans
 - Mass Fatality Management Plans
 - Pandemic Influenza Operations Plans and Field Operations Guides
 - State of Hawaii All-Hazards Logistics Framework Plan
 - Public Awareness Project Report

HONOLULU LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE (LEPC)

The City and County of Honolulu LEPC was established as a result of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) which became law in 1986 (PL 99-499). DEM is responsible for coordinating the City LEPC, which:

- Prepares and reviews hazardous material emergency response plans
- Evaluates resources for mitigation
- Receives facility chemical inventories
- Receives notifications of spills and releases
- Receives and processes requests for information from the general public

LEPC achievements during FY 2013 include:

- Active engagement with public agencies, private industry, and citizens to enhance the City's hazardous materials (HAZMAT) program
- Participation in response exercises with response agencies and private industry
- HFD HAZMAT individual and team training, and specific hazard awareness training